

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 NSCE-00 SP-02  
SAS-02 H-01 L-03 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 INR-10  
INRE-00 NSAE-00 CIAE-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SSO-00  
DLOS-09 /098 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:BKBODINE:SLB  
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM  
NEA/RA:WGROSS  
T:LBROWN  
PM/SAS:DKEENE  
NSC:GSICK  
EUR/SOV:RPERITO  
S/P:RBALL  
DOD/ISA:MURRAY  
-----005693 090001Z /64

O R 082320Z YUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE  
USMTM RIYADH IMMEDIATE  
USMTM DHAHRAN  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
SECDEF WASHDC 0948  
CINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 200576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, SA, YE, US

SUBJECT: TRILATERAL EXERCISES

REFS: (A) JIDDA 5784; (B) STATE 198372 (NOTAL);  
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(C) DOD 052153 Z AUG 78 (NOTAL); (D) STATE 172366 (NOTAL)

1. WE NOTE WITH CONCERN PRINCE SULTAN'S APPARENT  
ENTHUSIASM FOR POSSIBLE "TRILATERAL EXERCISES" IN YAR AS  
PARTICULARLY APPEALING RECOMMENDATION IN "WRITTEN REPORT"  
(WHICH WE ASSUME IS HUMAID'S VERSION OF THE JULY 29 AND 31

MEETINGS--PARA 7 REF A). WE APOLOGIZE FOR NOT PROVIDING GUIDANCE SOONER ON QUESTION OF TRILATERAL MILITARY EXERCISES OR ON POSSIBILITY OF US AIRCRAFT AND/OR FIRE-POWER DISPLAYS. EMBASSY SHOULD, PRIOR TO BRIEFING OF YAR OFFICIALS IN SANA AUGUST 10, TAKE FIRST OPPORTUNITY WITH SAG, AS SHOULD GENERAL CATHEY WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS, PARTICULARLY GENERAL KABBANI, TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT USG HAS NOT AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT OR US UNILATERAL EXERCISES OR DISPLAYS.

2. FYI ONLY: WE FEEL SUCH US PARTICIPATION COULD SEND A FALSE SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS, THE PDRY AND THE YARG ABOUT THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF US INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NORTH YEMEN. WE BELIEVE THAT EXERCISES INVOLVING US PERSONNEL COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO ATMOSPHERE OF STABILITY WE SEEK IN SOUTH ARABIA. MOREOVER, IT COULD PROMPT SOVIETS TO SEEK TO EXPAND THEIR OWN ROLE IN YAR WHILE IMPLYING TO YARG A GREATER USG COMMITMENT TO ITS SECURITY THAN WOULD BE PRUDENT TO EXPECT. END FYI.

3. IN MAKING OUR POSITION CLEAR TO SAUDIS YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE AND SAG TOGETHER ARE SEEKING TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND THREAT OF HOSTILITIES IN SOUTH ARABIA.

--US WANTS TO BE CAREFUL THAT ITS OWN ROLE IN SUPPORT OF  
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YAR SERVES THAT PURPOSE RATHER THAN ESCALATES TENSIONS.

--WE RECOGNIZE AT THE SAME TIME NEED FOR SOME TANGIBLE, HIGHLY VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF US DETERMINATION TO WORK WITH SAG AND YARG TO HELP YEMEN DEFEND ITSELF.

--WE FEEL US AIRLIFT OF EQUIPMENT TO YAR STRIKES THE PROPER NOTE IN MESSAGE WE WANT TO SEND TO YAR ON THE ONE HAND AND THE SOVIETS AND THE PDRY ON THE OTHER.

--US PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISES OR OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS SUGGESTING A POTENTIAL US COMBAT ROLE IN YEMEN WOULD NOT NECESSARILY SERVE OUR DESIRE FOR STABILITY IN THE REGION. IT COULD WELL PROVOKE SOVIETS TO INTENSIFY THEIR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH PDRY--AND PERHAPS INCREASE SOVIET EFFORTS TO ENLARGE THEIR ROLE IN YAR ITSELF.

4. IN MAKING THE ABOVE POINTS YOU MAY WISH TO INDICATE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY THE SCHEDULING OF US NAVAL SHIP VISIT AS SHIPS BECOME AVAILABLE. SHOULD THE YARG SO REQUEST.

5. IF THE SAG SHOULD RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT  
SAUDI/YEMENI MILITARY EXERCISES YOU SHOULD NOT SEEK TO  
DISCOURAGE THEM, BUT MAY WISH TO REFER TO GUIDANCE ON USE  
OF US EQUIPMENT CONTAINED IN PARA 2 (D) REF D. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY EXERCISES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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